

ESSENTIALS OF SURGERY FOR DENTAL STUDENTS. By J. Cosbie Ross, F.R.C.S. Second edition. (Pp. 296; figs. 207. 27s. 6d.). Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1952.

THIS little book, first published in 1945, has now entered upon a second edition. Its aim is to present to the dental student the common surgical conditions of the head and neck. In this the author has succeeded admirably. The various lesions are clearly described and classified, and well illustrated by colour pictures, photographs and line drawings. The clinical aspect too has been stressed, so that the volume serves the double purpose of being an introduction to ward work, as well as serving as a compact surgical text-book.

In this edition new matter has been added concerning the antibiotics, and the chapter on fracture of the jaws and face bones has been enlarged and re-written.

This book should prove exceedingly popular with the dental student for many years to come.

J. M. M.

OLD PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. By G. F. Adams, M.D., M.R.C.P., and E. A. Cheeseman, B.Sc., Ph.D. (90 pp. + 8 appendices). Belfast: Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority. 1952.

WITH the increase in average longevity, the problem of the aged sick is being posed more and more strongly. In Northern Ireland, though there was a realisation that such a problem existed, there were few facts upon which to base any sound conclusions. The authors of this report have carried out such a fact-finding investigation, and responsible bodies have here the necessary information to guide their deliberations and conclusions. Having given the historical background, the authors carried out a survey of old people in hospital. Hence the report is of value to Welfare Committees as well as to Hospital Boards. The problem is seen to involve a large number of people. Over 12,000 old people lead a precarious existence; almost 6,000 require some form of home help; 1,625 old people were in General hospitals; 1,716 in Mental hospitals requiring trained supervision rather than mental hospital care. Various suggestions are made to solve these difficulties—the development of a regional geriatric service, the provision of long-stay annexes at general and psychiatric hospitals, the encouragement of a home-care service, etc. Unfortunately, most of the remedies require extensive building programmes, but much could be done by Welfare Committees to ensure the success of a home-care service.

A great part of the permanent value of the report is to be found in the factual appendices. These tables represent a sound contribution to our knowledge of old age in Northern Ireland.

The authors are to be congratulated on their approach to this subject, and on their enthusiasm. One can only hope that this publication will result in early practical steps to solve the problems they have set before the community.

AIDS TO BIOLOGY. By R. G. Neill, M.A. Third edition. (Pp. viii + 288; figs. 21. 6s.). London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1952.

BIOLOGY is being taught to an increasing number of students as a subject for school and occupational examinations. The author states that this book is offered to such students. It is also offered to teachers, who must teach some biology, either as a subject in itself or as part of a course in nature study, gardening or rural science, and who are commonly not themselves graduates in biology. When the author is not introducing his readers to a multitude of new terms he writes agreeably, but it is evident that the students for whom he writes must pass examinations and that examiners may expect technical details and names. This book is useful, but there is a great danger that, used alone and without access to specimens and under the guidance of teachers who have not themselves been trained in biology, it, and others like it, may blunt the student's appreciation of the very things which confer on the study of biology its unique educational benefit as a mental discipline.